

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Footwear with a lace fastening comprising:

an opening with a first edge and a second edge which are juxtaposed and each of the first and second edges carries a respective plurality of lacing eyes,

at least two laces extending through respective pairs of the lacing eyes

wherein the laces are led through alternating lacing eyes of the respective pluralities of lacing eyes in a manner such that, between two consecutive lacing eyes of the same edge through which a first of the laces extends, there is at least one lacing eye of the same edge through which a second of the laces extends and the ends of both of the laces converge on both of the edges of the opening, with at least one end of each lace extending through a respective end lacing eye of the fastening provided on each of the first and second edges.
2. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 1 in which the corresponding ends of each lace converge in respective and separate grips.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 1 in which the lacing eyes are of the closed-eye type.
5. (Currently Amended) The footwear according to claim 1 in which means are provided for locking the laces ~~and are active independently on each pair of the respective ends of laces converging in the same grip.~~
6. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 5 in which the locking means are of the constricting type.
7. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 5 in which the locking means are provided in the region of the respective end lacing eyes.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) The footwear according to claim 2 in which the lacing eyes are of the closed-eye type.
- 10.-.13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently Amended) The footwear according to claim ~~166~~ in which the locking means are provided in the region of the respective end lacing eyes.

15. (New) The footwear according to claim 2 in which means are provided for locking the laces.
16. (New) The footwear according to claim 15 in which the locking means are active independently on each pair of the respective ends of laces converging in one of said respective and separate grips.